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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 AID-05 DHA-02
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /069 W
----------291636Z 026154 /53
R 291355Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 3081

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, VE
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DANIEL L. HOROWITZ, USG
REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO

REF.: STATE 49411

SUMMARY: DURING HIS SINGLE DAY IN CARACAS,
MR. HOROWITZ MET WITH KEY MEMBERS
OF THE GOV AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORKER
AND EMPLOYER GROUPS. CTV PRESIDENT VARGAS AND
EMPLOYER GROUP GOVERNING BODY MEMBER MARTINEZ
BOTH REITERATED THEIR TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR
THE US POSITION IN THE ILO. DEPUTY MINISTER OF
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS SURPRISED EMBASSY OFFICERS BY
GOING CONSIDERABLY FURTHER THAN OTHER FOREIGN
MINISTRY SPOKESMEN IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS IN
SUGGESTING A GOV COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE US
POSITION. THIS MAY INDICATE SOME GOV MOVEMENT
IN THIS AREA AND A SLIGHT TILT TOWARD DEFEND-
ING THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL TREATMENT

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EVEN AT THE COST OF DISPLEASING SOME ARAB OPEC
ALLIES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIS ONE DAY VISIT TO CARACAS, MR.
HOROWITZ MET WITH VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS GOMEZ MANTELLINI, VICE MINISTER OF LABOR
HUIZI CORDERO (A LAST MINUTE SUBSTITUTE FOR
MINISTER JOSE MANZO GONZALEZ WHO WAS SERIOUSLY
ILL), CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV)
PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS AND VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE
CTV EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND DR. FELIX MARTINEZ-
ESPINO, EMPLOYER MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE ILO AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CARACAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. MR. HOROWITZ MADE A FULL
PRESENTATION TO EACH INTERLOCUTOR COVERING THE
FOUR POINTS OF THE NOVEMBER 1975 LETTER OF NOTICE
OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO. TAILORING
HIS PRESENTATION TO VENEZUELA'S SPECIAL CONCERNS,
HE PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL MEMBER NATIONS
OF THE ILO. MR. HOROWITZ TIED THE EQUAL TREAT-
MENT QUESTION TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17
AND THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN
STATES TO SINGLE ISRAEL OUT IN A DISCRIMINATORY
AND IRREGULAR FASHION AT THE ILO.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY: DEPUTY MINISTER GOMEZ
MANTELLINI SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THE ILO QUESTION.
HE STATED THAT HE DEPLORED THAT THE GOV HAD TAKEN
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SOME "MISTAKEN POSITIONS" AT THE ILO IN THE PAST,
BUT THAT THESE PAST "ERRORS" WOULD NOT BE REPEATED.
HE EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS
ASPECTS OF THE ILO AND AGREED THAT EXTRANEOUS POLITICAL
QUESTIONS OUGHT TO BE LIMITED TO MORE APPROPRIATE
FORA. GOMEZ PROMISED TO PERSONALLY BRING THE US
POSITION ON THE ILO TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTER, WHO WOULD BRIEF THE PRESIDENT. HE STATED
THAT THE FINAL DECISION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RESTS
WITH THE PRESIDENT. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE ILO QUESTION
WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ
IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT SINCE IT IS THE PRESIDENT
WHO MAKES ALL IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS. 3,$:9..3,5:
GOMEZ SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE
QUESTION OF AMENDING ARTICLE 17 AND PRAISED THE USG'S
PROPOSALS. HE ASSURED MR. HOROWITZ THAT THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT
THAT VENEZUELA SUPPORT THE US IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO
RETURN THE ILO TO ITS ORIGINAL MANDATE.

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3. LABOR MINISTRY: THE DEPUTY MINISTER APOLIGIZED
FOR THE MINISTER'S ABSENCE. THE DEPUTY MINISTER TOOK CAREFUL
NOTES DURING THE PRESENTATION AND REQUESTED A
WRITTEN MEMORANDUM COVERING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
US POSITION. (AN AIDE MEMOIRE IS BEING PREPARED.)
THE DEPUTY MINISTER, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE
IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR VENEZUELA, STATED
THAT HE SUPPORTS THE US POSITION AND BELIEVES THE
GOV WILL GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORTING
THE USG. THE DEPUTY MINISTER DID EXPRESS SOME CONCERN
WITH THE DETAILS OF APPEALING UNFAVORABLE DECISIONS
BY THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION SCREENING COMMITTEE.
MR. HOROWITZ EXPLAINED THAT THE APPEAL WOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO THE OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

4. CTV: VARGAS STATED THAT THE CTV COORDINATES
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ITS ILO POSITION WITH THE ICFTU SOMEWHAT COMPLICATES
MATTERS IN THE WORKERS GROUP. HE NOTED THAT THE
CTV HAD SUPPORTED THE US ON THE PLO ISSUE,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 3081

OBSERVING THAT PLO MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO IS IMPROPER SINCE THE PLO IS NOT A GOVERNMENT, AN EMPLOYER, NOR A WORKER ORGANIZATION. VARGAS STATED THAT BEYOND THE CURRENT SERIES OF PROBLEMS IN THE ILO WHERE THE CTV SUPPORTS THE US POSITION IS THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF ILO MEMBERSHIP BY COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WHICH DENY WORKERS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DELEGATES. THE CTV FEELS THIS QUESTION MUST BE ADDRESSED. THE CTV HAS NO OBJECTION TO A SOCIALIST STATE CONTROLLING THE EMPLOYER DELEGATION SINCE IT OWNS THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, BUT WORKER DELEGATES MUST BE FREELY CHOSEN. VARGAS ALSO EMPHASIZED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH THE CTV PLACES ON US MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO
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AND PLEADED THAT THE US REMAIN WITHIN THE ILO. HE PREDICTED THAT IF THE US LEAVES THE ILO THE ORGANIZATION WILL COLLAPSE SINCE THE BALANCE BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC AND TOTALITARIAN STATES WILL BE DESTROYED. MR. HOROWITZ POINTED OUT TO VARGAS THAT THE US DECISION NOW RESTS IN THE HANDS OF THE CTV AND THE OTHER GROUPS REPRESENTED AT THE ILO. THE US HOPES VERY MUCH THAT IT CAN REMAIN IN THE ILO BUT IT WILL ONLY DO SO IF IT RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM A MAJORITY IN ITS DRIVE TO RETURN THE ILO TO ITS PROPER FUNCTION OF PROTECTING WORKER RIGHTS. VENEZUELA, AS A LIBERAL DEMOCRACY WHICH SHARES THE US COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL, IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE MAJORITY THE US SEEKS. VARGAS ALSO CALLED FOR ILO DECENTRALIZATION AFFIRMING THAT THE ILO MUST BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE.

5. EMPLOYER GROUP REPRESENTATIVE: MARTINEZ OPENED BY STATING THAT IS IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT THE US REMAIN AFFILIATED TO THE ILO. MR. HOROWITZ REPLIED WITH THE SAME APPROACH HE USED WITH THE CTV, THAT IT IS UP TO MARTINEZ TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO REMAIN IN THE ILO BY HELPING TO REVERSE THE INCORRECT TENDENCIES WHICH HAVE PLAGUED THE ORGANIZATION IN RECENT YEARS. WITH CONSIDERABLE REMINISCING ABOUT HIS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

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AS AN EMPLOYER DELEGATE TO THE ILO, MARTINEZ PROMISED
FULL SUPPORT FOR THE US POSITION. WHEN MR. HOROWITZ
ENQUIRED ABOUT THE EMPLOYER GROUP ATTITUDE TOWARD
POSTPONING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATION
ON CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL AT THE NOVEMBER GOVERNING
BODY MEETING, MARTINEZ CHANGED THE SUBJECT.
MARTINEZ DID RECALL WITH PRIDE THAT IN 1966, WHEN
HE CHAIRED THE EMPLOYER'S GROUP, HE HAD RULED A
SAUDI OUT OF ORDER WHEN HE BEGAN CRITICIZING THE
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US ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION. MARTINEZ ALSO MADE
AN IMPASSIONED DEFENSE OF THE PRICE OF OIL.
MARTINEZ SEEMED GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK
WITH MR. HOROWITZ AND EMBASSY OFFICERS AND COMMENTED
THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE MORE COMMUNICATION AMONG
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS BETWEEN SESSIONS.

6. COMMENT: SUPPORT FROM THE WORKER GROUP AND
THE EMPLOYER GROUP WAS EXPECTED. THE SURPRISE WAS THE
SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR THE US POSITION BY THE DEPUTY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HIS COMMENTS ABOUT
PREVIOUS VENEZUELAN "ERRORS" IN ILO VOTING. HIS EX-
PRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD
RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT PEREZ THAT THE GOV SUPPORT THE US ON THE
IMPORTANT ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE ILO DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS
WAS A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FROM THE NONCOMMITAL ATTITUDE OF
THE PAST. HIS CHANGE MAY, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, BE
BASED ON THE VERY FAVORABLE REACTION OF PRESIDENT
PEREZ TO RECENT US INITIATIVES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS
AREA AND A DESIRE TO IDENTIFY WITH A NEW US AD-
MINISTRATION WHICH THE GOV PERCEIVES AS BEING WILLING
TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED ON THE SIDE OF DEMOCRACY,
FREEDOM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF
LABOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE
US POSITION IN THE ILO, BUT WAS QUITE CORRECT IN
OBSERVING THAT HE IS NOT A POLICY MAKER IN THIS
AREA. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, VE, US, ILO, (HOROWITZ, DANIEL L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009